

## The 80s 1001

### Chapter 1001: Completion of the New Restaurant

The leisurely January passed without much surprise, and as soon as February arrived, everything seemed to pick up speed and become busy.

At the end of January, the renovation of Joy Soon Loy Restaurant was completely finished. Cheng Su led all the staff in a thorough cleaning, and after that, the furniture and stoves that had been prepared in advance were all moved in. Then, they did another round of cleaning inside and out, preparing for the opening.

The new restaurant has three floors; the first and second floors are halls, and the third floor consists of private rooms. However, the first floor, equipped with a reception desk and a seafood fish tank, is relatively narrower than the second floor. Despite this, the space is much larger than before, and there's no problem fitting ten or eight tables.

The first floor also has two separate areas for the kitchen and pastry department, connected to the main hall, which is a significant upgrade compared to simply setting up a kitchen in the yard as before.

Cheng Su toured the new restaurant along with a few shareholders, and upon seeing the kitchen, she laughed and said to Old Song, "You'll really have a place to show off your skills from now on."

Old Song smiled modestly and said, "Not at all, not at all. But this kitchen is really well designed, the counter is big, so even if we get a large banquet order, we won't have to worry about where to put the dishes."

Luh Kai, standing nearby, said, "Then Old Song, you'll have to create a few more signature dishes and make our Joy Soon Loy famous as soon as possible."

"Certainly, certainly."

Ning Ge, who often found Luh Kai annoying, folded his arms and said, "Luh Kai, don't you know Joy Soon Loy's reputation is already well-established? Old Song's Buddha Jumps Over the Wall attracts lots of diners! Clearly, you don't know enough about Joy Soon Loy!"

Faced with Ning Ge's provocation, Luh Kai merely smiled and said, "It's my mistake, I'll make sure to thoroughly study the rise of Joy Soon Loy."

"Don't listen to his nonsense; there's no history, it's just a little restaurant started from scratch!" Cheng Su retorted.

"Still, that's not easy." Luh Kai replied sincerely.

"Your flattery is quite loud," Ning Ge sneered.

Cheng Su warned him with a glare, but Luh Kai didn't seem to care at all.

The group moved to the second floor, which can accommodate twenty to thirty large round tables in the hall, spacious and well-lit, with ceiling fans installed. They won't have to worry in summer.

On the third floor, there are ten large private rooms named after the twenty-four solar terms, with the most luxurious one equipped with soft leather sofas, making it quite high-end.

"For the staff on this floor, I'm planning to select those who are relatively smart. People who come to private rooms must be of higher status and more generous, and waiters who can't read people's faces aren't good waiters," Cheng Su said.

"Opening on the eighth, can they be trained in time?" Luh Kai asked.

"We've already selected a few candidates and will slowly rotate them in afterward," Cheng Su replied with a smile. "Current staff are also gradually being put in place, striving to have experienced workers on duty soon."

Luh Kai nodded: "Thank you for your hard work!"

Ning Ge heard this and glanced at him again, subtly positioning himself between them, and said to Cheng Su, "On the opening day, should we bring in some people to create an atmosphere?"

"This is also why I called all of you here today. Firstly, to tour the restaurant and see if there's anything that needs improvement. Secondly, to discuss the opening procedures..." Cheng Su said, opening her notebook.

Luh Kai listened nearby, looking at Ning Ge, who gave him a warning look, leaving him feeling puzzled.

When he glanced at Cheng Su, Luh Kai's eyes behind his golden glasses slightly narrowed, suddenly gaining some insight into where this animosity came from.

Could it be that he thinks I have an interest in Cheng Su?

Chapter 1002: All Hostility Dispelled

February 8, a good and auspicious day, is also the reopening day of Joy Soon Loy Restaurant, now renamed to Joy Soon Loy Restaurant.

Early in the morning, Cheng Su dressed up nicely and came to the restaurant to prepare for the opening ceremony. She first called Old Song and Qiulan, who was in charge of the floor, for a briefing, then checked everything inside and out, and gathered all the employees to speak.

Before her, all personnel were in place, including those in charge of the floor, kitchen, cashier, and dish and vegetable washing, all dressed in brand new, unified uniforms. The women wore light makeup, ready to present themselves with a fresh look.

Cheng Su was very satisfied. The overall appearance was uplifting, which pleased her. After all, with a reopening, it is only natural to face customers with a new look.

Similarly, Cheng Su felt emotional. Two years ago, she started this small restaurant on her own, scraping together money and borrowing someone's private savings, working long hours with just herself and two employees, which later grew to three, four... to now dozens of people.

How much she had given during this time, outsiders would never know, nor was it necessary to say.

Cheng Su gave a smile, looking at all the employees, her red lips slightly parted: "Today is the day our Joy Soon Loy Restaurant officially opens. I am very happy to work with you all, to have the fate to be colleagues and friends. I hope everyone works together and fulfills their duties..." Her words of gratitude were met with enthusiastic applause from the employees.

She glanced at the time, it was almost ten o'clock, and the invited guests should be arriving, so she stepped outside to the entrance.

The others also moved, each taking their role, well-trained and professional.

The opening needed to be well-publicized, and people had already gone out to distribute leaflets offering a 15% discount for the grand opening period.

Cheng Su invited political figures she could reach, like Ying Jian and others, to the opening ceremony. Naturally, all the shareholders were included as well.

Ning Ge was the first to arrive, yawning and dressed in casual clothes.

Cheng Su frowned and said, "You're a shareholder, can't you dress a bit more formally?"

Ning Ge wagged his finger and said, "You're the main character. We're just shareholders in the background. It's agreed we only have participation rights!"

Cheng Su rolled her eyes at him.

"Cheng Su."

Cheng Su and Ning Ge turned to see Luh Kai approaching in a black suit, with gold-rimmed glasses, a smile on his lips, and an elegant demeanor.

Ning Ge looked at himself and suddenly felt a bit annoyed. Who was he trying to outshine?

Just as he was about to retort, he saw Luh Kai extend a hand, and behind him, he saw a woman!

With long flowing hair, big eyes, a smile at her lips, wearing a red coat and wool pants, high heels, and gazing at Luh Kai with affection.

Cheng Su curiously looked at the woman, as it was the first time Luh Kai had brought a woman along.

"Luh Kai, who is this..." Ning Ge looked at the woman.

Luh Kai smiled, led her forward, holding her hand, and introduced, "This is my partner, Xie Minyi. Today is the restaurant's opening, so I brought her to see and also to introduce her to you all!"

"Oh, a partner!" Ning Ge immediately became all smiles, praising, "Truly beautiful, you two are a match made in heaven! When are you treating us to wedding candy?"

All hostility vanished.

Xie Minyi shyly lowered her head, biting her lip and glancing at Luh Kai.

Luh Kai gave a faint smile and looked at Ning Ge, "Soon, get ready for the wedding gift!"

Ning Ge heartily agreed, unknowingly feeling as if a great weight had been lifted from his heart.

### Chapter 1003: The Restaurant Reopens

Luh Kai's partner is a teacher. According to him, they used to be colleagues, and looking at them now, they do make quite a fitting pair.

"Congratulations, you've finally decided to settle down!" Cheng Su glanced at Xie Minyi, who was talking with Li Dan not far away, and said to Luh Kai.

"At this age, it's about time," Luh Kai's lips curled slightly.

"When's the wedding?" Cheng Su asked again.

Luh Kai glanced at her, "Not set yet, but probably this year."

"Send me an invitation when it happens." Cheng Su smiled.

"Sure!"

Cheng Su nodded, and with sharp eyes, noticed a private car arriving. Quickly walking over, she saw it was indeed Ying Jian and the others, and she couldn't help but smile and extend her hand in greeting.

From a distance, Luh Kai watched her. Her smile was just right, her body slightly inclined, with one hand lightly resting on her abdomen, while shaking hands with Ying Jian and the others with the other hand. No matter how you looked, her demeanor seemed graceful and poised.

And she was only in her twenties, yet so composed.

"She really is quite an impressive woman, isn't she?" Ning Ge somehow appeared beside him and said.

Luh Kai looked at him and said, "Yes, it's a pity she's already taken, otherwise..."

Ning Ge glanced at him and said, "Teacher Xie's still watching you over there, if she hears you, she'll be truly heartbroken!"

"She's not unreasonable. Besides, as the saying goes, a fair lady is what a gentleman seeks. And me, I'm just admiring," Luh Kai said calmly.

Only then was Ning Ge satisfied.

"I admire her, what about the Fourth Young Master?" Luh Kai added another comment.

Ning Ge's smile stiffened, glaring at him.

Luh Kai, however, laughed joyfully and walked towards Xie Minyi, feeling quite pleased with himself for getting even!

Ning Ge snorted, feeling annoyed—what a pest, still so annoying even now with a partner.

As it approached ten o'clock, the sound of gongs and drums started, and the lion dance began.

Qi Taiguo held a bouquet of flowers and walked towards Cheng Su, who was talking with Ying Jian and watching the lion dance. He wore a crisp military uniform and a cap, and when the onlookers saw the three stripes and star on his shoulder, they began to discuss in hushed tones.

Cheng Su was alerted by someone and turned around, seeing Qi Taiguo coming her way, she couldn't help but break into a broad smile.

"Why are you here?" Cheng Su took the flowers from him, gave him a kiss on the cheek, and asked with a smile.

"It's your big day, of course, I'm here. Just coming to show my support, though I'll have to leave shortly," Qi Taiguo said with a smile.

At this time, Ying Jian and the others had approached with smiles, and Cheng Su quickly introduced everyone to each other.

Qi Taiguo's military uniform already showcased his officer status, and those who came were sharp enough to seize the opportunity to network, each smiling and exchanging pleasantries with a sweeter talk than the last.

"Is that Miss Cheng's husband?" Not far away, Xie Minyi asked Luh Kai.

Luh Kai chuckled and said yes.

"They really complement each other, strong yet gentle. Don't you think so?" Xie Minyi complimented again.

Luh Kai smiled wordlessly; they truly seemed well-matched. The union of a couple really seemed like heaven's arrangement.

Suddenly, the sound of firecrackers erupted, the lion dance stopped, and someone drew back the bright red embroidery. Cheng Su pulled Ying Jian and the others forward for the ribbon-cutting. The embroidered ball fell, and the red silk covering the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant sign was also pulled aside.

Auspicious opening.

The Joy Soon Loy Restaurant was officially open, about to usher in a period of prosperity.

Applause thundered.

Luh Kai also clapped his hands and suddenly felt a gaze on him. Looking over, it was Qi Taiguo, who smiled and nodded at him.

Qi Taiguo curled his lips into a slight smile, his eyes swept over the woman standing beside Luh Kai, then said a few words to Cheng Su, and left first.

#### Chapter 1004: Old Qi Is Upset

The restaurant has just opened, and the management and service model is also being run according to a standard restaurant format. Various departments have been established, but since it has just launched, everything is yet to stabilize and can only progress gradually.



Yet, the dim sum department also needs to be set up, and Cheng Su has already posted a job advertisement.

And since it has transformed into a restaurant, the former fast food format is no longer suitable for the restaurant. Since both sides are still rented stores by Cheng Su, she used one shop to create a fast food department, with the sign also saying Joy Soon Loy Fast Food. The food cart is also set up there. This is her innovative fast food operation, which is also the foundation of her success, so she certainly won't give it up easily.

The money earned from fast food, accumulating cents over time, not only saves money but also builds popularity. Why not do it?

If the opportunity arises, Cheng Su even wishes to buy those two shops on both sides to make them her own forever!

For several consecutive days, Cheng Su was stationed at the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant. Since the restaurant had launched, everything from the decor to other aspects was more upscale than before, so quite a few people wanted to dine in the private rooms, especially with Ying Jian and the others taking the lead.

With good products and excellent decor, naturally, it attracts customers. Moreover, with opening promotions, the two-floor hall was packed for several days straight.

And after a banquet, Cheng Su secured her first big order. The city was organizing a commercial land bidding event, involving a considerable number of diners, and Ying Jian and their management assigned this undertaking to Cheng Su's family.

Cheng Su was overjoyed; earning money can't compare to the amount in such orders. These tasks are rare, so she and Old Song really put their heads together to ensure this battle is won. If this goes well, more such orders will follow.

However, to secure orders, networking is inevitable, and drinking also ensues. Returning home, Qi Taiguo smelled alcohol on her a few times.

"You drank again?" Qi Taiguo frowned.

"Just a couple of glasses of Shaoxing." Cheng Su sniffed herself.

"Come here." Qi Taiguo pulled her to sit down and said, "I understand socializing is necessary, but you're still taking medicine to regulate your body. Drinking again negates that medicine. In the future, decline if you can! Earning money is important, but health is more crucial!"

"I know, it's just that it's opening time these days, and the guests are affluent or influential. That's why I'm managing over there." As Cheng Su spoke, she lowered her head.

Regarding social engagements, the most involved are salespeople and those in the dining industry, especially the senior management in each restaurant. Since the visiting guests are wealthy, socializing is inevitable.

To kickstart business at the restaurant, especially during the opening phase, Cheng Su had no choice.

"I understand, but couldn't you have someone cover for you?" Qi Taiguo said patiently, "You like doing business and making money, but the premise is not to joke around with your body. I don't like it, nor will I allow it."

"Are you mad?" Cheng Su carefully observed his expression.

"If I'm mad, will you stop drinking? Stop socializing?" Qi Taiguo retorted.

Cheng Su hugged his arm, rubbing her face against him, and said coyly, "It's just these opening days. I don't even like drinking. Besides, in a few days, I'll be starting school again and won't be able to stay at the restaurant. So, it's just these few days. Anyway, I'm only drinking Shaoxing and yellow wine."

Seeing her seeking sympathy and understanding, Qi Taiguo sighed, "Just these few days, don't drink too much anymore."

Cheng Su nodded quickly, saying, "I won't drink anymore, I won't drink anymore. If anyone asks me to drink, I'll say I'm adjusting my body to have a baby for my husband."

Qi Taiguo was amused by her, pinching her nose, "You!" with a tone full of helplessness.

#### Chapter 1005: Junior Sister Is Awesome

Cheng Su is true to her word; whenever there's a social engagement, she uses her pregnancy preparation as an excuse to refuse the offered drinks, delegating the task to the restaurant's managers, like Qiulan and the others.

If it really can't be avoided, she will only take a small sip of yellow wine, since it's an ancient wine, rich in nutrients, and drinking a small amount won't cause much harm.

Another point is that she can attend the engagements but she's not there for drinking. With so many managers at the restaurant, what are they there for, if not to lead? Why should the boss be present at every social function?

As the excitement of the new opening at Joy Soon Loy Restaurant gradually subsided, Cheng Su handed its management over to the management team. In mid-February, university started, and she went to register, returning to her routine of occasionally going to work and attending classes.

Just like before, Cheng Su was again caught by Ming Xiaofan.

"Junior, junior, long time no see! Wow, after the new year, you've become even more beautiful!" Ming Xiaofan complimented her with a smile.

Cheng Su laughed and said, "Senior, you're also looking more handsome!" although he still appeared quite unkempt.

"Junior, I have something to discuss with you. I need your advice," Ming Xiaofan said.

"Go ahead!"

Ming Xiaofan scratched his head and said, "It's nothing much, really. I just found a job in communications, sort of like a phone company."

"Oh? That's great! Congratulations! The communications industry will surely become a giant in the future. If you do well, your achievements will definitely be significant," Cheng Su immediately responded.

While others might not know, she was quite aware that the communications industry would be very advanced in the future and develop into a major giant. Ming Xiaofan was interested in this area, and starting now would lead to him becoming an excellent communications professional in the future.

"I knew asking you, junior, wouldn't be wrong. You also think it's great, right? I also feel this communications industry has a very promising development outlook. I told them, and they didn't believe me, said I was daydreaming, really lacking vision," Ming Xiaofan snorted.

Cheng Su smiled and said, "If you believe it's the right thing, just go ahead and do it. You don't need to care about how others see it. When you've succeeded in the future, everyone will realize that your choice wasn't wrong, and they'll envy you."

"That's exactly how I feel. I'm thinking of first working at that company to see how they operate and move forward, and then I'll have the opportunity to start my own," Ming Xiaofan said excitedly.

Cheng Su's eyes lit up, and she said, "Senior Ming has great aspirations. I'm looking forward to hearing good news from you."

"So, should I just go to work?" Ming Xiaofan asked with a smile.

"Absolutely, why not? If you want to go and they're hiring you, there's no reason not to," Cheng Su said, then asked, "What about your studies?"

"No worries, I'm in my third year already, and besides, university life is all about having fun. Moreover, aren't you also managing a business while studying?" Ming Xiaofan replied.

Cheng Su was startled, "You know about that?" It seemed like she hadn't mentioned her business activities before, right?

"Yes, other classmates said so, mentioned you have several big businesses. But I'm not sure how they know, just overheard them talking," Ming Xiaofan said, "You're really amazing, junior."

Cheng Su furrowed her brows but then realized it's not a big deal and relaxed, smiling, "Maybe they saw me involved in some business!" She wondered if the noticeable activity from the Joy Soon Loy Restaurant opening might have led classmates to notice?

However, she wasn't really pleased about others gossiping about her, as it involved personal privacy.

#### Chapter 1006: Rumors Sparked by Donations

Cheng Su didn't expect that her business making money would bother others.

The cause of the matter wasn't something else, and to say it, it was a bit dramatic—her classmate, a girl named Chen Moli, suddenly got acute leukemia.

Chen Moli's family was average, her parents were working-class, this illness was deadly and soon they couldn't afford the treatment, so the school initiated a donation drive with each class sending people to raise funds.

The person responsible for Cheng Su's class was the class president named Wang Ying, who first gave a heartfelt speech then urged everyone to donate generously.

This year, it's already 1987, compared to before, the earnings have increased, but there are still many people who don't have much money, so everyone donated ten or eight yuan, which was considered a lot.

When Wang Ying came to Cheng Su, she smiled and said, "Cheng Su, you're someone who runs big business, you should donate more to help our classmate Chen Moli through this difficult time."

As a classmate, it's right to donate, but what Wang Ying said made Cheng Su feel uncomfortable, what was that supposed to mean? Just because she runs a big business she should donate more, what kind of logic is that?

Everyone in the class looked at Cheng Su, which made her feel even more uneasy and uncomfortable, but she took out two Great Unity RMB and put them in the donation box: "Wishing Chen Moli a speedy return to the classroom."

She checked, and so far, hers was the largest donation.

Wang Ying glanced at her, seemingly a bit dissatisfied, but Cheng Su didn't look at her and continued to bury her head in her book.

She thought that was it, but not long after, Cheng Su heard gossip about herself.

"Opening such a big restaurant, money rolling in, yet so rich and only donating twenty yuan, what a miser."

"The richer someone is, the stingier they are."

"Seemed so generous, but turned out to be nothing like that."

Apart from such gossip, there were many more strange looks, which almost made Cheng Su explode in anger.

What kind of people are these, is it just because she has money, she deserves to donate a lot of money, to donate her fortune?

Donations are supposed to be voluntary, is there such forced situations?

Even though Cheng Su was angry, she didn't pay attention to it, knowing that there are such people everywhere.

But her ignoring them didn't stop them from looking for trouble with her.

Cheng Su sat in the cafeteria eating, Ming Xiaofan also arrived, looked around, then eagerly ran over to sit beside her: "Junior sister!"

At the table next to them, Wang Ying and several girls were eating and talking loudly.

Wang Ying looked at Cheng Su, then glanced at Ming Xiaofan, showing a look of disdain.

"Don't think that just because someone has money they're generous, the richer they are, the stingier." Wang Ying suddenly raised her voice.

Cheng Su furrowed her brows and put down her spoon.

Ming Xiaofan looked at her cautiously, then glanced at Wang Ying.

"Usually they talk about classmates, but when it comes to a crucial time, it means nothing, if I had such a big restaurant, I'd definitely donate a thousand to help her." Wang Ying continued.

"Forget it, people are like that." One girl echoed Wang Ying's words.

"I just feel, how can people be so cold-blooded and heartless."

Cheng Su pursed her lips, hands on her knees, a flicker of anger in her eyes.

Until now, she didn't know who spread those rumors about her, it felt like she'd lived two lifetimes for nothing.

She looked at Wang Ying, who avoided her gaze, snorted, as if disdainful to even look at her.

Ming Xiaofan then confronted Wang Ying: "Enjoy your meal without making noise, why so much talk, isn't it annoying!"

#### Chapter 1007: Just Because You're Poor Doesn't Make You Right

Ming Xiaofan shouted sharply, making Wang Ying and her friends blush. They looked at Cheng Su even more unfavorably. They had long known that Cheng Su was close to this senior student, and now they were sitting together having a meal, with the senior speaking up for Cheng Su. Could there be something going on between them?

Cheng Su performed well at school, had good English, and was said to be very adept with computers. Many people praised her, and Wang Ying had been jealous for a long time. Seeing Ming Xiaofan like this now made her feel uncomfortable.

"How does our conversation bother you?" Wang Ying said, "It's not about you, so protective must mean something's up!"

Ming Xiaofan was stunned. What protection, what something's up!

Cheng Su immediately understood that this was implying an affair, truly intolerable.

She stood up and walked over to Wang Ying's table, glaring at her coldly.

Cheng Su wasn't short, over 1.7 meters tall, and now standing was like looking down from above, putting a lot of pressure on others.

"What are you doing?" Wang Ying swallowed.

"Please clean up your mouth," Cheng Su said coldly. "If you have any grievances, you can say them to my face. Don't go sneaking around, spreading rumors behind my back!"

In the cafeteria, quite a few people looked over with interest.



Wang Ying blushed and said, "What rumors have I spread about you? Which ear heard it? I didn't name names."

"If you named names, I'd slap your mouth on behalf of your parents for being so ill-mannered spreading rumors!" Cheng Su sneered.

Wang Ying was furious, stood up: "You, Cheng Su, what do you mean? Don't be so smug!"

"And so what if I'm smug? Do I run a big restaurant that offends your eyes? Are you jealous? You say I'm stingy, at least I donated twenty yuan. How much did you Wang Ying donate? How much did the people in the class donate?" Cheng Su pressed aggressively.

Wang Ying's face turned red: "You you..."

"According to Monitor Wang's intention, if you're doing a big business and have money, you're supposed to donate a lot, and if you don't, it's like committing murder and arson? Donation is voluntary, isn't it? How come in your eyes, donating less is unforgivable? Does that mean all those who donated less than twenty yuan are unforgivable?" Cheng Su implicated everyone.

Some frowned, looking disapprovingly at Wang Ying.

Seeing those looks, Wang Ying's expression changed drastically, tears welling up in her eyes.

"Refute me then. Is this me being stingy? I remember Monitor Wang yourself only donated a Great Unity RMB, right?"

"I haven't done big business, I can't make money, otherwise..." Wang Ying retorted angrily.

"Otherwise you'd donate thousands, right? That would be really generous, but unfortunately, you don't have that ability. Oh, so you're justified in being poor, and we're not justified? Cheng Su snorted coldly, looking at her with mocking disdain: "We have money, but it didn't just blow in from the wind, it was earned through hard work, so why should we have to donate it all? What kind of logic is that?"

Someone snickered, followed by a burst of laughter.

"You, Cheng Su, you're too much!" Wang Ying blushed purple with shame and ran out crying.

The people sitting with her looked at Cheng Su as if she were a demon, not daring to speak; they just got up and went around Cheng Su to chase after her.

Cheng Su snorted and returned to her seat, continuing to eat as if nothing happened.

Ming Xiaofan came to his senses, gave her a thumbs up: "Junior sister, you've got quite a mouth!"

Insulting others without using offensive language, that's impressive!

#### Chapter 1008: Donation Requests Piling Up

At school, Cheng Su was feeling a bit down, and this would have been fine, but as soon as she got back to the community, someone stopped her about the donations.

It wasn't for anything else, just to respond to the activity of respecting and caring for the elderly, bringing warmth to the five-guarantee households, and asking everyone to donate.

"The more, the better. If you have money, donate money; if you don't, donate goods. It's all about love for the elderly. Contribute as you feel." The one holding the donation box was Sister-in-law Gao, Gao Linbing's wife.

What are the chances, a fundraising cluster!

Cheng Su had just dealt with the "forced big donation" matter, was already feeling a bit irritated, and now hearing this, her heart skipped a beat.

"Is there a mandatory minimum amount to donate?" Cheng Su asked with a smile.

Better to ask clearly, otherwise if she donated too little, who knows if someone might call her stingy.

"It's all up to you; you can donate ten to several tens if you want, or just a few dollars, or even donate goods. No mandatory amount!" Sister-in-law Gao replied with a smile.

"How much did you donate, Sister-in-law? I'll donate the same as you!" Cheng Su asked, meaning not to make a show of herself.

Sister-in-law Gao was about to reply when someone interjected, saying, "Oh come on, Sister-in-law Qi, how can Sister-in-law Gao compare with you? You're doing big business, making money every day, of course, you should donate more, right, everyone?"

With these words, both Cheng Su and Sister-in-law Gao's faces changed. Cheng Su was annoyed; here we go again, just because she makes more money, she's a target!

Sister-in-law Gao felt awkward and a bit annoyed, glancing at the spouse, clearly displeased.

What's the meaning of this, in the whole community who can compare with Cheng Su, it's known she's well-off, and yet this person had to bring it up. Is this praising or mocking?

Cheng Su was already simmering with anger, and upon hearing this couldn't help but want to erupt, looking at the spouse she said, "Donations are about personal intention, is there a rule that big business owners should donate more? Moreover, us business people earn with our hands and feet, and you make it sound like it's as easy as a breeze blowing in money. So, according to you, every business person must donate a lot just to show they care?"

The spouse's face turned red with embarrassment.

"Exactly, exactly, there's no mandatory rule. Sister-in-law Qi, just follow your inclination!" Sister-in-law Gao forced a smile.

Cheng Su said, "Sister-in-law Gao, whatever you donate, I'll just donate one dollar less. You are older than me, I dare not compete with you."

"Look at you, what are you saying, it's all about care, what's there to compete? I didn't donate much, just ten dollars." Sister-in-law Gao smiled.

Cheng Su indeed counted nine dollars from her purse and stuffed it into the donation box.

Everyone seeing this broke into laughter: "Sister-in-law Qi always takes jokes so seriously."

The spouse slinked away in embarrassment.

Cheng Su then said, "It's a good thing to bring warmth to the five-guarantee households. This is my personal donation. Later, I'll have the company send a batch of jam as a token of our company's love for the elderly. Sister-in-law Gao, later give me a count, allocate one bottle per household for me. And give me a date for the delivery, so I can plan accordingly."

"Oh, that would be lovely, then I'll get back to you with the tally?" Sister-in-law Gao knew about those jams; they were quite expensive, even the cheapest pineapple jam cost a dollar a pound, how could those five-guarantee households be willing to eat it?

But Cheng Su had the company donate a batch, although it was under the company's name, it was actually also her personal intention.

Chapter 1009: Call from Mother-in-Law

Qi Taiguo came home and saw Cheng Su hugging a pillow, puffing her cheeks in frustration, and couldn't help but find it a bit strange.

The restaurant had opened, and he heard that business was good. Cheng Su had been very happy lately, so what happened today? Who upset her?

"Who made our President Cheng upset? Look at those puffed-up cheeks, like a frog, ribbit ribbit." Qi Taiguo poked her puffed cheeks with his index finger.

Cheng Su had been sulking, but being teased like that, she burst out laughing and pushed him away, "Go away, you're the frog, a big old toad."

"There you smile." Qi Taiguo sat over, pulled her into his arms, and asked, "Why are you upset?"

Cheng Su sighed and said, "It's nothing, just sometimes it feels like no matter what you do, someone will have a problem with you."

"Huh? What's that supposed to mean?"

With nothing much to talk about, Cheng Su started recounting the two fundraising events.

"...If you don't donate or donate too little, people say you're cold-hearted and unsympathetic. Saying that you do big business and make a lot of money, so you should donate more. It's funny, isn't everyone's money earned with hard work? Just because you have money, do you have to donate a lot for it to be justified?" Cheng Su laughed bitterly.

"I thought it was for something else, you're sulking because of this?" Qi Taiguo chuckled, "You never feel tired, getting worked up over such things!"

"So what if I'm petty!" Cheng Su glared at him and said, "I just find it unsettling hearing these absurd claims. They seem to think it's only right that I donate more because I earn money, ridiculous!"

"Alright, alright, they're just on a different level than you. Are you really going to bother with them?" Qi Taiguo comforted her, saying, "Let them say whatever they want, would you really care?"

"I care, why wouldn't I care? Who doesn't care about their reputation?" Cheng Su raised her eyebrow, "If you heard someone call your wife stingy, a penny-pinching miser, wouldn't you be upset?"

Just as Qi Taiguo was about to respond, the house phone rang. Since he was sitting nearby, he naturally picked it up.

"Oh, Mom, have you had lunch yet?" Qi Taiguo played with Cheng Su's hair while speaking into the phone.

When Cheng Su heard it was her mother-in-law calling, she pretended not to care, but her ears perked up to listen.

Qi Taiguo noticed, nearly bursting into laughter, so he changed the direction of the phone to let Cheng Su overhear.

Seeing her eavesdropping caught, Cheng Su's face reddened a bit, and she struggled not to listen.

Qi Taiguo chuckled and responded, while Cheng Su, unable to break free, pinched his soft side.

Not to be outdone, Qi Taiguo reached and pinched the soft part on her chest.

Cheng Su blushed fiercely, "Pervert!"

Qi Taiguo laughed out loud with pleasure.

Mother Qi heard something was off on the other end and coughed a couple of times: "Taiguo, Taiguo are you listening?"

"Oh, I am listening, tell me, what's up?" Qi Taiguo stopped teasing and seriously spoke into the phone.

"It's not a big deal, it's just your aunt arranged a bride for Weixia, but their family doesn't have much in the way of assets, right? A house was even crushed by heavy snow last year. The girl's family said they'd only marry her off if they build a new house. You know your aunt's life hasn't been easy, and Weidong passed away early, leaving a few orphaned ones. Weixia's matter is a big concern, it's a rare good match, and your aunt doesn't want to miss out. So she wanted to ask if she could borrow some money from us, and with what she's saved, build a house, and settle this matter. Isn't Cheng Su in business? See if she can spare some?" Mother Qi said.

Qi Taiguo was stunned, and looked at Cheng Su.

#### Chapter 1010: Asking for Money Again

Cheng Su noticed Qi Taiguo's expression becoming very strange, and couldn't help using her mouth to ask: "What's wrong?"

Qi Taiguo forced a slight smile, his eyes shifting away, feeling a bit guilty.

Just now, Cheng Su had talked to him about two donation matters, all saying she made big business and got money, should donate more, and she was sulking about it, he also just persuaded her not to mind it.

Now, his mother called, still saying these things, people doing business, they want money.

Qi Taiguo felt his face burning, staying silent for a long while.

Mother Qi felt something was wrong, and asked: "Taiguo, are you listening? Your aunt had a rough life, in that family of theirs, only Weichun is left as a man, we're relatives, close relatives, you all got along well when you were young. If you can help, just help a bit."

"Mom!" Qi Taiguo said with great reluctance: "Cheng Su is doing business, she needs a lot of cash flow, we really don't have that much money on hand right now."

Mother Qi didn't say anything for a long while, then said: "So you're unwilling to help? It's just a loan, they will eventually pay back, and you won't help with this as well?"

"Mom, it's not that we don't want to help, but we really don't have it, Cheng Su has just reopened a restaurant, all the money has gone into it, so... hello, hello?" Qi Taiguo heard the beeping dial tone from the receiver and couldn't help but frown.

After hanging up, he saw Cheng Su squinting at him, and forced a smile.

"What's going on? What do they need the money for?" Cheng Su asked.

She had an intuition that it wasn't anything good, feeling rather depressed, what's going on lately, one after another, they're all asking for money.

Qi Taiguo did not dare to say.

"I overheard, sooner or later I'll find out." Cheng Su said, meaning that whether he said it or not, he had to say.

Qi Taiguo then relayed what Mother Qi said to her, finally adding: "You heard it too, I refused!"

So it's about borrowing money.

Cheng Su asked: "How much do they want to borrow?"

"One thousand!"

Cheng Su widened her eyes: "Borrow one thousand? Are they building this house entirely on borrowed money?"

Qi Taiguo gave a bitter smile.

"Are they borrowing from your mom or from us?" Cheng Su asked again, and without waiting for him to answer, continued: "But it's all the same, borrowing from your mom is equal to borrowing from us, where would your mom get the money?"

Qi Taiguo glanced at her and said: "Don't worry about it, I already told mom, your money is all invested in the restaurant!"

"You're right, the restaurant has opened, but it's big, and the cash flow needed is also larger, I don't have much money on hand either. One thousand yuan, it's not that we don't have it, but if loaned out, can we ensure it would be returned? This is to build a house to get married, if you ask me, wear the hat



that fits your head. One thousand yuan, even if they borrowed it and built the house, this debt would still crush them later!" Cheng Su said.

"I know your shop has a large cash flow, so I also told mom honestly, don't worry about it, as you said, wear the hat that fits your head." Qi Taiguo quickly said, not daring to mention the part about his mother's comment on doing big business.

Cheng Su pursed her lips, borrowing money—her principle was to help in emergencies, not to alleviate poverty. If you say you're saving a life, then it's okay to loan, but this is to build a house and get married, that's a different story!

One thousand yuan, not much but not little, at least in ordinary families, being frugal, it could last for a few years, and how can anyone guarantee that once loaned out, it can be recovered?

Borrowing money depends on the person's character, doesn't it? That face of his aunt, Cheng Su thought about it, and then shuddered.